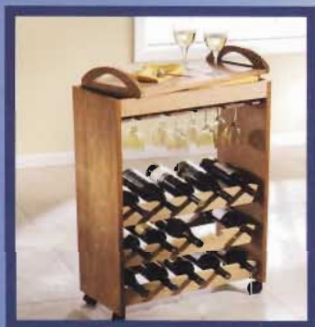


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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO **WOOD STORAGE PROJECTS**

*Built-in & Freestanding Projects
For All Around the Home*

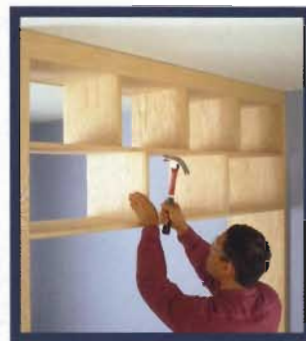
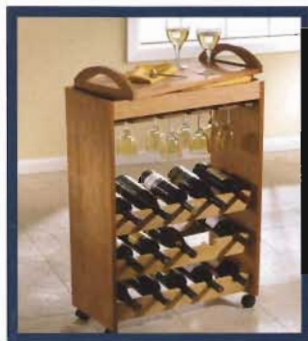


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STORAGE PROJECTS (previously published
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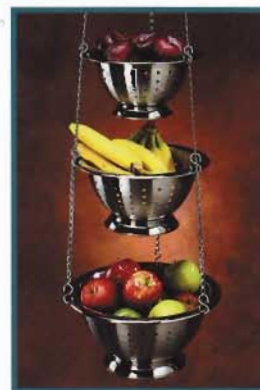
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INTRODUCTION

Most of us have more stuff than we know what to do with. Yet somehow we find ourselves continuing to accumulate more. Over time, our homes become overrun with cluttered countertops, overflowing bookshelves, and chaotic closets. Our best efforts to get the mess under control result in the production of different versions of the “junk drawer” in any room that offers a space to hide things. This means on our very best days, our homes may look tidy, but they never feel truly organized; there is rarely a logic to where most things go. There are basically three reasons for this: We tend to hold on to things long after we stop using or needing them; the few storage systems we have managed to establish are not easy to maintain; and, most importantly, we simply don’t have enough places to put things.

It is this last problem that is the focus of this book. *The Complete Guide to Wood Storage Projects* contains step-by-step instructions with full color photos and illustrations to over 50 practical, easy-to-build projects—ranging from basic wall cabinets to innovative racks for storing CDs and home electronics—that will help you to maintain an organized home. While many projects use standard lumber and other building materials, others make use of unusual materials, such as plumbing pipe and electrical conduit. Each project is designed for adaptability and versatility, so you can use it for a variety of different purposes in various rooms. Some projects may require small alterations, but others can be built exactly as directed.

The book is divided into seven chapters, each containing projects that address a specific type of storage problem: Utility Storage, Decorative & Display Storage, Food & Dishware Storage, Recreation Storage, Clothing Storage, Home Office Storage, and Framed-in Storage.

In addition, each chapter provides a portfolio of storage ideas to help you generate other practical and creative storage designs. And if these examples are appealing to you in their own right, we provide a thorough resource guide to the retail products you’ll encounter within those pages.

Before getting to the projects, we give you a section on planning and assessing, and a section on general building techniques in carpentry, joinery, finish work, and soldering that will be useful for nearly any project you wish to tackle, in this book or otherwise.

The goal of *The Complete Guide to Wood Storage Projects* is to provide detailed instructions for the creation of functional and attractive furniture, cabinetry, and accessories to help you bring order to the clutter in your home—to tame and civilize the hoards of small and large household items begging for permanent, logical storage.

Take the time to plan out the projects outlined in this book, have fun, and take pride in them when you’re finished. Remember: When you increase the efficiency of your storage space, you create a more comfortable living environment for yourself and your family.

IN THIS SECTION:

-
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 - Planning New Storage page 7
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Ready, Set ... Throw It Out

There's an old adage that if you haven't worn an item of clothing in the past year and can't imagine wearing it in the next year, you probably won't ever wear it again. If this basic concept is true for outdated ties or sweaters, isn't it also true for many other items gathering dust on shelves somewhere in your home?

The message is this: The best storage container may be the trash bin. Or the home of someone who will use an item you've outgrown.

You can simplify your storage issues by sorting through your belongings to determine what you should keep and what you should throw away. You may be relieved to find the situation isn't quite as bad as you feared.

Do yourself a favor and get rid of items that have no purpose. Getting rid of items doesn't mean they're wasted—you can give them away, sell them in a garage sale, or donate them to charity. Remember: One person's trash is another person's treasure.

After you've eliminated unnecessary clutter, sort through the remaining items and figure out where they belong. Get the telephone books out of the pantry and into the home office, move that power drill from the file cabinet to the workshop, transport the spare toilet paper rolls from the laundry to the bathroom.

When you've finished these important steps, look at the projects in this book and decide which of them will be most valuable to you.



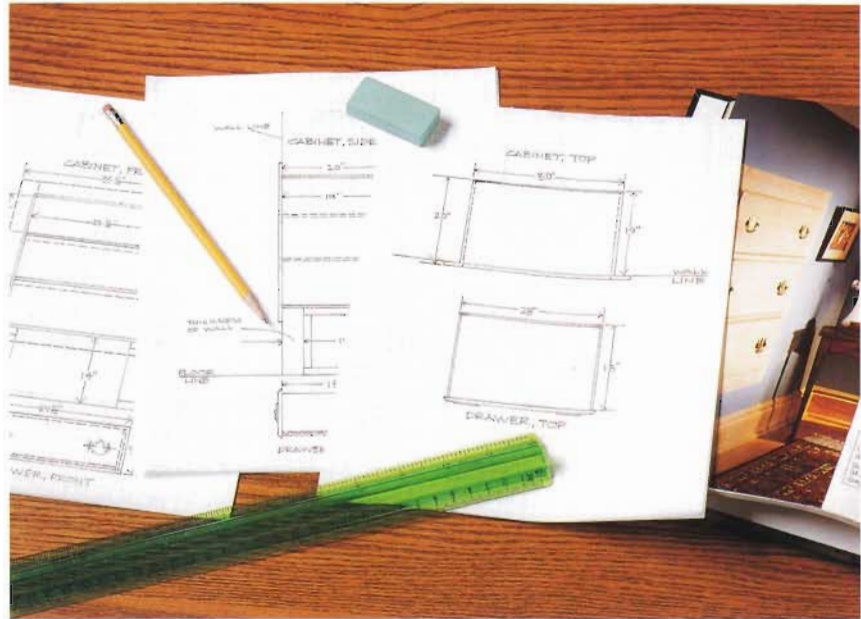
Planning New Storage

Before you begin building any storage project, take the time to plan it out properly. Complete the following steps to avoid problems during and after installation.

Visualize the effects the project will have on your living environment. Larger built-in projects that take several days to build may tie up living areas that are used on a daily basis. Consider the impact on your existing decor and furniture as well. To indicate the boundaries of the project, make a cardboard template, or apply masking tape to the floor. You may find that the project will work better in another part of the room, or that a different project will better suit your needs.

Make scale drawings of your project to familiarize yourself with how it goes together. Then make cutting diagrams of sheet goods to help make efficient use of materials. When laying out cutting lines, remember that the blade of the saw will consume up to $\frac{1}{8}$ " of material.

Consider access problems to specific rooms.



Use graph paper when making scale drawings. Make cutting diagrams as well, to ensure that you use sheet goods and dimensional lumber efficiently.

Tight corners, narrow doorways, and shallow stairwells can make it impossible to maneuver large projects into specific spaces. Accurately measure all stairways, turns, and doorways before you begin. If the project won't fit, alter the construction or build it in place, in the room it will occupy.

Locate all plumbing pipes, electrical lines, and heating ducts before you begin projects that require cutting holes in walls. Use a stud finder to locate wall studs and ceiling joists when fastening a project to the wall or ceiling. Don't blindly drill holes in walls: Doing so is risky.

Practice your skills, especially if you'll be using tools that are unfamiliar to you. Follow all manufacturers' directions. Power tools, such as sanders, routers, drills, and saws, operate at high speeds and can be dangerous if not used properly and with the right protection.

Make a cardboard template or tape outline to help you visualize the end result of a project and draw your attention to issues that aren't obvious from a scale drawing.

